



U.S. Global Change Research Program
**National Climate
Assessment**

Update on the Sustained Assessment Process

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The USGCRP Strategic Plan 2012-2021

More information at:
<http://www.globalchange.gov>



Goals:

Advance Science

Inform Decisions

Sustained Assessments

Communicate and Educate



United States
Global Change
Research Program



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Progress in Building the Infrastructure: Current NCADAC Working Groups



1. Scenarios and Regional Summaries
 2. Engagement and Communication
 3. Regional Coordination /Sustained Assessment
 4. Sectoral Coordination/Sustained Assessment
 5. Report Integration Team
 6. Adaptation, Mitigation and Decision Support
 7. Indicators Development and Evaluation
 8. International Implications
 9. Sustained Process and Evaluation
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10. Global Change Information System

Current Activities of the Sustained Assessment Process

- Design of GCIS: Data archiving, management, retrieval, tools
- Communications and engagement: NCAnet; NCA Communications and Engagement Workgroup; IceT for NCA
- Regional coordination: maintenance and building of regional and sectoral networks; Regional Coordination Workgroup within ATF; efforts of the Adaptation Science IWG at USGCRP
- Indicators: NCA Indicators Workgroup, multiple funded interagency activities; proposed NCADAC products
- Scenarios: NCA scenarios workgroup; SBE Task Force; several proposed NCADAC products
- Sustained Assessment: Sustained Assessment workgroup; INCA activities; proposed NCADAC product; development of rolling 5-year operations plans and evaluation metrics

Global Change Information System

- A “one-stop-shop” web based source of **authoritative, accessible, usable, and timely** information about climate and global change for use by scientists, decision makers, and the public
 - A friendly, accessible entry into global change information for non-scientists
 - Global, persistent, reusable identifiers for each item
 - Integrated data catalog provides interagency metrics, data mining, searching, etc.
 - Interagency relationships allow discovery of interdependencies and increase collaboration opportunities
 - Agency information mapped into a common, consistent model with a standard vocabulary
 - Concept tagging and linking improves search results for agency products

GCIS Status

- GCIS Interagency Workgroup chaired by Anne Waple and Curt Tilmes involves 7 agencies
- Curt is working full time on design of the GCIS
- Workplan is completed
- Phase I will be deployed at the end of 2013 to host the NCA 2013 report and all of the data and references behind the key messages
- Phase II will support the full suite of USGCRP activities and data

NCAnet: Partners in Assessment



- A network of organizations that extend the NCA process and products
- Building long-term capacity to conduct and use assessments
- Cultivating partnerships with organizations that will participate in the sustained assessment process

Approved Sustained Assessment Topics

- The topics have been discussed with the USGCRP Principals since February of this year; proposal developed by INCA in a retreat last April was discussed at two Principals meetings and approved
- NCADAC has reviewed, commented on and approved the USGCRP proposal
- (See “Proposal for Selecting Topics” Document for more details)

Indicators

The goals for the NCA national indicator system are to:

- Provide meaningful, authoritative climate-relevant measures about the status, rates, and trends of key physical, ecological, and societal variables and values to inform decisions on management, research, and education at regional to national scales;
- Identify climate-related conditions and impacts to help develop effective mitigation and adaptation measures; and
- Help with organization of data and tools for adaptation and mitigation.

Approved Sustained Assessment Foundational Efforts/Topics (status)

- Incremental development and deployment of **national indicator system**, with NCADAC reports in 2015 and 2017
 - White paper prepared
 - Workplan approved
 - 4 Workshops held, others planned
 - Criteria for selection being developed
 - Full time staff member deployed
 - Large interagency workgroup co-chaired by Tony Janetos, Deke Arndt and Bob Chen

Approved Foundational Reports/Topics

- **Scenario development for 2017 report and enhanced decision support for regional and sectoral stakeholders.** Three proposed reports will be scoped; initial interagency scoping meetings have started:
 - Guidance on scenario development, use of existing scenario and modeling tools and downscaling
 - Incorporation of new scientific information, ranging from socio-economic conditions to physical systems and ecosystems (including CMIP5 results, new emissions info) into regional scenarios and other projections of impacts on sectors, proposed interagency technical input document due 2014, with NCADAC report in 2015
 - Development of standardized land use and socioeconomic scenario data for regions, with reviewed interagency report produced in 2015 for use as a foundation for the 2017 NCA synthesis report

Approved Foundational Efforts/Topics

- Development of a **“roadmap” for establishing the cost of climate-related impacts in the US as related to benefits of adaptation** as proposed by the new BECS board of the NRC by the end of 2015
 - Identification of data needs for baseline information and alternative approaches to valuation for use in the NCA
 - Draft proposal has been developed and is being considered within the scoping process

Special Reports Topics

- **International context assessment** with NCADAC report in 2015; outline has been developed and scoping report is available; NCA Workgroup membership may evolve
- **Water cycle/drought attribution special report** (not yet being scoped, still under discussion)
- **Food security assessment** with USDA-led interagency report due in 2015 and NCADAC report due in 2016 (funding and approach are in place, draft outline and scope of work is available)